

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7505

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS PARIS 6355

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, FR

SUBJECT: TURKISH AIRLINES CRASH VICTIMS

REF: STATE 49426

1. PREFECTURE AT BEAUVAIS (OISE) INFORMS US ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT APPROPRIATE TIME, TO BE HELD PROBABLY IN CATHEDRAL AT SENLIS OR IN PARIS. FAMILIES OF VICTIMS WILL BE NOTIFIED THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE, AND PREFECTURE IS UNABLE TO GIVE ESTIMATE. FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL OFFICES WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM, WE RECEIVE IMPRESSION THAT SERVICE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE HELD FOR TWO WEEKS OR MORE. FRENCH AUTHORITIES ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO HAVE FAMILIES COME HERE UNTIL PRELIMINARY TASK OF IDENTIFYING REMAINS AND SORTING OUT EFFECTS HAS BEEN COMPLETED TO THE POINT THAT VISIT BY FAMILIES WILL BE USEFUL AND ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO COPE WITH THE NUMBERS INVOLVED.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THAT FAMILIES ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE WORD ON MEMORIAL SERVICE AND INFORMATION ON IDENTIFICATION OF BODIES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AS YOUR PREVIOUS REPORTS INDICATE, THE SCOPE OF THE DISASTER, CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOARDING AT PARIS, AND THE ALMOST TOTAL DISINTEGRATION OF AIRCRAFT AND PASSENGERS COMBINE TO MAKE THE TASK OF ASSEMBLING AND IDENTIFYING THE REMAINS OF VICTIMS

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ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. FYI ONLY, IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT NOT MORE THAN

20 BODIES WILL BE IDENTIFIABLE, THUS PRESUMABLY OTHERS WILL
EVENTUALLY BE BURIED HERE IN MASS GRAVE . END FYI.

3. TURKISH AIRLINES HAS ARRANGED WITH TWA TO PROVIDE FREE
ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION FROM NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON TO PARIS
FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO FAMILY MEMBERS OF EACH VICTIM. TURKISH
AIRLINES WILL PAY FOR MAXIMUM THREE NIGHTS STAY IN PARIS. NO DEFINITE
ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO COVER DOMESTIC PORTION OF AIR
FARE, BUT AIRLINE IS STILL WORKING ON PROBLEM

4. WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT MR. AND MRS. KALINSKY AND
OTHER RELATIVES NOT COME TO PARIS AT THIS TIME. THERE IS LITTLE
THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED AT THIS POINT EXCEPT TO IDENTIFY PERSONAL
EFFECTS. THE INSTITUT MEDICO-LEGAL WILL NOT PERMIT FAMILIES TO
VIEW REMAINS UNLESS TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
FRENCH OFFICIALS HAVE ADVISED US INFORMALLY THAT THEY WOULD NOT
AUTHORIZE A PRIVATE SERVICE AT THE CRASH SITE AT THIS TIME,
ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD ALLOW FAMILY MEMBERS TO PAY A BRIEF VISIT TO THE
SITE. FYI AS OF MARCH 8 SITE WAS STILL A CHARNEL HOUSE WHICH
REQUIRED LARGE DISINFECTING MACHINES CONSTANTLY OPERATING TO KEEP
STENCH DOWN. END FYI. JAPANESE BUDDHIST CEREMONY WAS A SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT FOR A LARGE GROUP OF FAMILIES OF VICTIMS WHICH THE
FRENCH PREFER NOT TO HAVE DUPLICATED. BRITISH MEMORIAL SERVICE
AT ANGLICAN CHURCH HERE WAS PRIMARILY FOR BRITISH COMMUNITY
IN PARIS, WITH FEW FAMILIES OF VICTIMS PRESENT. BOTH AMERICAN
CATHEDRAL OF PARIS AND AMERICAN CHURCH OF PARIS INCLUDED PRAYERS
FOR VICTIMS IN SERVICES MARCH 10, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIAL SERVICE WAS
ORGANIZED IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF MOST FAMILIES.

5. IF MR. AND MRS. KALINSKY DECIDE TO COME, DESPITE THE DISCOURAG-
ING SITUATION HERE, THEY SHOULD CONTACT TURKISH AIRLINES NEW
YORK OFFICE OR TWA TO ARRANGE FOR FREE TICKET. TURKISH AIRLINES
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REIMBURSE THOSE FAMILIES WHO ARRANGE FOR THEIR
OWN TICKETS. REQUEST EMBASSY BE NOTIFIED ETA SO THAT WE CAN
MEET AND ASSIST. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP STONE

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